

The **Parks and Recreation Board** met Monday, March 19, 2007 at 4:30pm in the Board of Works room at City Hall.

Present at said meeting were Leon Trachtman, Paula Woods, Mike Dana, Garnet Peck, Karen Springer and Attorney John Sorensen. Joe Payne, Pennie Ainsworth, Chris Foley, Brenda Lorenz, Lee Booth and Cheryl Kolb represented the department. Council members Ann Hunt and Gil Satterly were also present. Also present was Clerk-Treasurer July Rhodes. Absent was Council member Gerry Keen.

Leon convened the Board at 4:34 pm.

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the minutes of the February 26, 2007 meeting. Mike motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Paula seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Superintendent – Joe reported on the following:

- Noted the Council Report was included in the mailing.
- The new trail guide should be available next week.
- Callout for the vendors for the Farmer's Market, along with a presentation by the Tippecanoe County Health Department is tomorrow at 7 pm at Westminster.

Assistant Superintendent – Pennie reported on the following:

- We have received permission from the School Corporation to proceed with the safety upgrades at the pool and to add the additional deck around the east end of the pool. The Engineering Department is doing the design work for us.
- Softball callout meetings are this week. Coed is Tuesday and the Men's is on Wednesday, both starting at 7 pm. League play will start May 7. Coed fee is \$350 and Men's is \$500
- Pool passes have been ordered.

Parks – Lee reported on the following:

- Noted the inspections for February and March
- Opening all the parks for the season
- Closed the rink
- Finishing the restrooms in Happy Hollow Park and Cumberland Park
- Still getting equipment ready for summer
- Painted a room at Morton

Recreation – Chris reported on the following:

- The skating center closed for the season on March 4. This was the first season that the Skating center has been able to remain open through the first week of March. The regular skating season will continue to be the Friday after Thanksgiving through the first weekend in March.
- Attended the School Board meeting where they gave permission for up-grades at the pool.
- Went to the Happy Hollow School parent's council meeting. There were some requests for adding some shade areas to the main pool area.
- Planning for summer

Morton Center – Brenda reported on the following:

- I am going to start compiling Morton enrollment figures and doing it per session rather than monthly because sometimes they are misleading. I plan to make a written report of the total session's registration figures at the end of the season. I will include data from past sessions. I will then give the totals just at the end of each session. This hopefully will prevent the figures that I give you from misleading anyone just because people signed up later than usual or earlier than usual.
- WALLA classes began today. They had around 170 register for their classes.
- Over last week's spring break, several of the maintenance men painted room 200 at Morton, the yoga room. They did a nice job. The room looks great.
- The Art on the Wabash Committee had their second meeting today. They hope to hold the event Sunday, September 16, 10 am – 4 pm. The event went so well last year, they are hoping to have even more vendors this year.
- We have had interest expressed in leasing a room at Morton to an individual for some private and group art lessons. Room 105 is the room that we are considering leasing out on a monthly basis. Our lease with the church specifies that some room on Sunday's for children's area. The church agreed that they could move the children's area on Sunday's to room 100, a larger and nicer area, if we do lease room 105. I do not think the type of art instruction that would be given in the space would greatly affect the classes of art that we are offering. I quoted a possible rate of \$425 a month, subject to Park Board approval. The individual was not comfortable with an annual 5 percent bump per year, so was going to propose to you a 3 percent bump annually. Once we can determine when the lease is to begin, we will bring the document before you.
- The Lafayette School Corporation is collaborating with the National Youth Sports Camp at Purdue to give a summer school experience for children and is interested in renting the classroom at Lilly Nature Center. The times tentatively are 7:30 am – 3 pm for two weeks, Monday – Friday, the end of June to present some science programs. Since the cost of renting that space would be around \$1,500, they will be writing a letter to present at the next Park Board meeting requesting a discount to help reduce expenses.

Old Business**Personnel**

Brenda, Lee and Joe interviewed five applicants for the Parks & Recreation Maintenance Technician II position; their main job would be taking care of Morton from 2:30 to 11:30 pm. Requesting approval of hiring Phillip Gutierrez effective April 2. Bi-weekly pay of \$1,056.50 with a 90 probationary period followed by an increase to \$1,147.01 bi-weekly upon completion of the 90 day period. That fills all our vacant positions. Mike motioned approval of the new hire. Garnet seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Lincoln Park

Joe reported that quotes have been requested for the concrete work to be opened tomorrow at Board of Works along with quotes for a new mower. Hope to get purchase orders issued and proceed ahead with, as weather permits, getting concrete work done, followed by playground installation and shelter installation and various other site furnishings, landscaping, fencing and try to establish a parks dedication in June or July.

Use Agreements

Pennie requested approval of the Use Agreement with Pony League for use of the Arni Cohen South field for use beginning March 23 and ending June 29, use of the field on Tuesday and Friday, games are at 5:30 and 7:30 pm. Garnet moved approval of the Use Agreement. Karen seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Pennie requested approval of a Use Agreement with Blessed Sacrament Church for use of their softball field for our coed league that starts May 7 and goes until the end of the season. In return for use of the field, we mow the softball area. Mike moved approval of the Agreement. Garnet seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

New Business**Non-Reverting Gift Fund**

Chris stated that it has been brought to our attention that we might want to make some changes on how the interest on our Non-Reverting Gift Fund is held. It would be our intent to divide any interest earned from NRG funds. If the interest were divided, it would allow each sub-account to have their share of the interest receipted to their account to be used for their dedicated purpose. The NRG Funds accounts that will receive a share of the interest earned are Community Trees, Global Fest, Morton and City Beautification. City Beautification is considered a general-purpose account. All other accounts not specified would be included with the City Beautification account. After some discussion, Mike moved to accept the proposal. Paula seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

West Lafayette School Board – Karen reported on the following:

They are moving ahead with the Superintendent search. They have conducted first round interviews and this week they are starting with second round interviews. They are very pleased with the interviews they have had and look forward to their second round. It is likely the new Superintendent will be named in May.

Wabash River

Paula reported that the Parkway Commission would meet next month.

Joe stated that the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation is working with the prospective consultant and the scoping phase of the planning process. They meet with them today and some will be meeting with them tomorrow to try to get the project working and the contract negotiated and funding secure.

Other**Morton Recital**

The Morton Recital is coming up on April 28 and at that time we have always had pictures taken by a photographer and then they make them available for a price to our students. What we would like to pursue this year is to find a videographer to make a video tape and have that available for students to purchase. She would like permission from the Board to pursue a videographer. We do not get a cut of the sales, in return we just ask that they make them available at the lowest price as possible.

Sam Postlethwait

Joe showed pictures taken by Sam at the Celery Bog that are also available in post-card form. Sam would like to make them available to the public at the Nature Center; they would require a requested donation of fifty cents per card; forty cents to cover cost and ten cents to the Parks Department as a donation from Sam. This is the same procedure that was approved for the boxes of gift cards in the past; that we are allowing Sam to provide this service whereby he recovers his cost and then makes a donation to the Celery Bog fund when the check comes in. He also has the potential of having a 11 by 14 pictures; samples provided, which he could also provide and sell those for \$15 donation unframed or \$20 framed. His intent would be to cover his cost and help celebrate the Celery Bog Nature Area and provide a twenty percent donation for us to continue to improve our facilities there. He has also made a couple DVD's, that record fall, the evolution of Celery Bog Nature Area and the nature center; that is purely on his own. Beginning in April, on every Tuesday he will be doing hikes on the footpaths at 1 o'clock and will continue through May. Those are open to anyone who would like to join him. Mike moved approval of the postcard proposal. Paula seconded the motion, and the motion passed. The Board did not feel comfortable in allowing the selling of the larger pictures. Joe suggested that Sam be allowed to post his pictures and attach a little card that says for them to contact Sam if they are interested in purchasing one. Judy was concerned with the fact that sales tax was not being charged.

Lilly Nature Center Volunteer Luncheon

Joe reported that we recently had the thank you dinner for the volunteers that work at the Lilly Nature Center. It is an annual event. A summary of 2006 volunteer hours worked at the Nature Center was 1,623, our staff put in seven hours and the county put in seventeen. So the volunteers covered 98.5 % of the operation of staffing Lilly Nature Center for the public last year. Of those 6,576 people in 2006 that signed the book they are from 31 states and 15 countries.

Mayor's Round Table

Joe reported that the Mayor hosted a Mayor's Round Table at the Nature Center. Joe put together an updated informational sheet to give to folks and there was also a presentation by Stan Lambert from the Wabash River Enhancement Corporation.

Foundation Sculpture

Joe updated the Board on the Foundation's plans for a sculpture to be located at the north end of the Wabash Heritage Trail.

Purchase Orders**Pay Claims**

Mike motioned for claims to be paid. Paula seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Adjourn

Garnet motioned the meeting be adjourned. Paula seconded the motion, and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:22 pm.

Presiding Officer

Secretary